CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.  A method for treating a patient to decrease the likelihood of developing or the progression of Alzheimer's disease comprising administering to the individual an effective amount of an inhibitor of memapsin 2 having an $K_i$ of less than or equal to $10^{-7}$ M or which binds to crystallized enzyme characterized by the parameters in Table 2 when bound to OM-99-2.

2.  The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is administered orally.

3.  The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor blocks cleavage of APP.

4.  The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is modeled using a computer program based on the crystallization coordinates of memapsin 2.

5.  The method of Claim 1 wherein the inhibitor is modeled using a computer program based on the parameters for memapsin shown in Table 2.

6.  The method of Claim 1 comprising creating a data base of data obtained by modeling more than one inhibitor based on the crystallization coordinates of memapsin 2 or parameters of Table 2.